

Viking Saga

HELICOPTOR

PARENTING

Northwest High School
Grand Island, Nebraska
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who needs
to worry?
not me!

PAGE 2
Should the
Pledge of
Allegiance be a
requirement?

PAGE 3
New student
organizations
make
appearances

PAGE 6
Northwest
Students
lend a
helping hand

PAGE 7
Start of Winter
Sports
Athlete
Superstitions



Trying to
define our
generation

Kids Should be Taught to Respect the Flag

Courtney Niemoth
STAFF WRITER

Everything we have here in the United States of America is because of the brave men and women that put their lives on the line for our freedom. It's the least anyone can do to take a minute out of their day to rise, put a hand over their heart, and pledge allegiance to our flag: the symbol of freedom.

The Pledge is a way to honor all the troops who are willing to, or who already have, lost their lives fighting for the freedom of this country. The phrase "One Nation Under God" may be offending to some students, or go against some people's beliefs. But remember that it's because of our troops that all of us get the choice to believe in whatever God we choose.

Why would we have to pledge allegiance everyday; why not just say it once in a while like most oaths? Well, what if a soldier asked, why they should fight for America every day, not just once a year? If they did that, we wouldn't even have a country to

pledge allegiance to. Plus, saying The Pledge in school every day is now a requirement. It has been incorporated into school curriculum to prove that as a school, we support and agree with the overall educational goals that the United States has set for their future generations.

Lastly, in a country divided by so many different statuses and classes such as; race, political views, and economic backgrounds, making a pledge to our country is something that can unite us. Unity is a quality than no country will succeed without.

When reciting The Pledge, all students have a choice whether or not to stand and say it, as long as they're respectful if they decide not to.

Being a student who completely agrees with students saying the pledge on a daily basis, I can say it honestly doesn't bother me if a student chooses not to say the Pledge. That being said, however, I don't think that those students should be bothered by our choice to stand up and say it. No one's forcing anyone to say The Pledge if they don't want to.



You can't force people to be patriotic

Makena Kelly
STAFF WRITER

The Nebraska School Board of Education recently voted to create a rule making it mandatory that Nebraska public schools recite the Pledge of Allegiance daily.

Words cannot describe the amount I disagree with this rule. Even though students have the choice whether or not to recite The Pledge, it is absurd to believe that schools must set aside time out of the day to recite a few phrases, that, indeed, mean very much, but in no way whatsoever benefit their students or staff.

First off, contrary to popular belief, the Pledge was not written by any of the Founding Fathers or anyone alive during their era. The Pledge was written by Francis Bellamy in 1892; a socialist minister. Throughout the next 60 years, the Pledge underwent some tweaks. Not until 1954, during the Eisenhower administration, were the words "under God" added as a response to the "atheist, Communist threat." In no way were The Pledge and the contents within it written under the guidance of our Founding Fathers.

Many arguments for the recitation of The Pledge are on the grounds of nationalism. I love the United States, but I do not believe that a pledge needs to be taken every day in order for students to pledge allegiance to

their country (which is kind of a socialist idea, anyway). The President of the United States definitely does not take the Oath of Office every day; a doctor doesn't take the Hippocratic Oath every day, either.

Even if you are a strong nationalist, you do not need to recite the Pledge every day, but simply once, in order for it to take effect.

Lastly, the United States was founded on religious freedom, not religious pressure. Even though I am devoutly irreligious, I am not disturbed by the words "under God," but rather the context in which they are used.

The words "under God" are merely a statement of faith created to show an opposition to the Russians during the nuclear arms race, and today they are irrelevant.

Today's pledge is not the traditional pledge used to stir up some patriotism, but a pledge with no enemy, and no use. The recitation is dated to some, offensive to others, and not a true representation of the United States today.

If someone forces another to apologize to you, do you take it as a sincere apology? Of course not. Then why should our troops take a forced pledge as honest? I hope that this rule is revoked, and that nationalism becomes a more intimate and personal battle instead of a forced and untrue one.

Looking at Both Sides

Viking Saga

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twitter.com/nwvikingsaga

New organizations introduced at Northwest

More avenues for positive student interaction, leadership opportunities

Katie Arndt
STAFF WRITER

There have been many clubs planned for this year. One of them, Stand for the Silent, met on November second. This club was founded to fight bullying; the organization is a group of students to help protect kids from bullying, saving lives in the process.

"Stand for the Silent" is a nationwide organization. It was started in 2010 by Oklahoma State University after the students there had learned about the sobering story of Ty Smalley. The child, only eleven at the time, had taken his own life after being bullied for two years. He stood up against his pursuer, only to be punished himself and suspended from school.

Many people's lives have been changed by this organization. Even the bullies themselves have been moved by their plea.

"I had to admit that I used to be a bully and you really opened my eyes to what the victims feel and I burst[ed] into tears when I heard the story of your son... You didn't just stop me from

being a bully, but now I am supporting the cause brother," claimed a student, a quote found on the "Stand for the Silent" website.

The meeting at Northwest was an introductory one; not much had been decided yet. The attending members were told to think about the following things: a time to meet, who should be the club's officers, their overall goals for the year, and their overall mission.

Anyone interested in joining this group should email English teacher Darbie

Mazour. The email subject should read "SFTS," so Mazour would be able to categorize your email. Inside of the message, you should include your thoughts of the four previously listed topics above, as well as thoughts on ordering products

such as shirts and wristbands.

Mazour also suggests you should visit "Stand for the Silent's" website at standforthesilent.org.

Even the YWCA is considering opening an adult chapter of "Stand for the Silent." According to the Grand Island Independent, Anita Lewandowski

Brown, executive director of the YWCA, says she thinks it is appropriate for adults to create chapters of "Stand for the Silent" as she pointed out that "adults are the role models for kids."

A few other clubs that have been recently started are the Interaction Club and the Secular Club.

The International Action Club, also known as the Interaction Club, is a worldwide organization focused on trying to eliminate the last traces

of Polio worldwide. Each local group helps their community in order to raise money, as well as making the community a better place.

The group at Northwest meets every other week. All of the Grand Island groups meet together every other week at Senior High School.

Students wanting to know more about this group should email senior Georgina Rubio.

The Secular Club is focused on bringing together a group of non-religious people and breaking the negative stereotypes that are associated with them.

This club was started by science teacher Stan Mills, while vice principal Chris Eberhardt assisted him in getting the club approved. Now, both of the faculty members run the club.

The group meets every two weeks, on Sundays. If you want to join this group or learn more about it, email Mr. Mills.

Additional clubs are in the process of organizing now. Please look for more information in upcoming issues of the *Viking Saga*.



Many websites available for Black Friday shopping

Amy Johnson
STAFF WRITER

Ever wanted to shop, but without the store chaos? You could try online shopping, and here are some hints to help you.

Everyone knows about eBay, and Amazon, but what about for special items, like electronics, DVDs and more? Or can't find the item you want? Well there are websites that are for your particular items. There is no need to waste your time on finding the sites, because here are some websites, just for some help.

First up, is bookdepository.com. people who use this site gave it a rating of 95%. Having a large amount of books, discounted prices, and free shipping makes this rating accurate.

Second is store.apple.com, with all of

the new iPods, iPads, and more. This site was rated an 88%. Having the iPad mini at only \$369 and free shipping, this is a good site for most of your electronics and electronic accessories that you may need.

If you are looking for clothing, accessories, or shoes, then here is some help.

[Pumpkinpatch.com](http://pumpkinpatch.com) is a good site for finding apparel, with a rating of 88%. This site ranges from babies to adults. They offer a \$7.95 shipping fee and give 40%-50% discounts on many items.

Secondly is ebay.com, which is the second most used website for fashion, following eBay.

Need electronics? Well try appliancesonline.com. They were rated a 90% and have many electronics as well. They have appliances, and more things, but you may have to search for the

things you want.

Is the first site doesn't work out like you hoped, then try shoppingsquare.com. They got a 83% rating and have many discounts each day.

Lots of people use products for hair. But if you want to try something other than Walmart brands, then try strawberrynet.com. They have a ton of things for cosmetics, even for the guys. This site got an 88% rating and is having a special: get a FREE gift with your first purchase of \$25 and up.

But if you want to keep searching for the perfect site, then there is always adorebeauty.com. They have an 85% rating and items for

make up, hair, things for men, and much more. They also have a discount that goes up to 50% off.

All of the listed websites are the most used, with the highest ratings. But if you still want more information on the sites, click on to choice.com. This site will guide you to the items you most want for the shopping seasons.



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Staffer feels Helicopter Parents take protection to the extreme

Naleigh Hall
STAFF WRITER

Today's "Helicopter Parents" are common for our generation. Yes presence with your children is good, but not this kind of presence.

Our generation is said to be like no the other generations. We're using technology for the wrong reasons. Kids now-a-days can't have a face-to-face conversation, and we have our parents do everything for us.

Well, that's what people are saying. Have you ever been in a sticky situation and you had your parents fix it, or it's through your phone? That is our generation.

Today's "Helicopter Parents" hover over their children to make them perfect—or shaping their kids into what they think is perfect, anyways. Hovering parents will fight their children's fights, hire that extra tutor to get an extra 5 points on the ACT, or even play Mozart's music for their young child.

Our generation needs these kinds of parents because we could not handle situations by ourselves. Our generation is said to be irresponsible. Also, hovering parents don't let their children make their own decisions. They say they just want the best for us.

Hovering Parents started in the 1990's. Children would walk or ride their bikes to school but that dropped from 41% in 1969 to 13% in 2001. As the years go by, there are more and more news stories talking about kidnappings and other crazy happenings. Could this be the cause of these so called "Helicopter Parents"?

As the years go by, you can go to a store and buy a leash for your child, or even get some baby kneepads so your child doesn't get a scraped knee. Aren't these the things that teach children a lesson in life so they will learn what and what not to do?

These helicopter parents are so obsessed with their kids' success that parenting has turned into a form of product development. As children grow older into high school, teachers are receiving texts from parents protesting their child's grade.

Do these hovering parents realize they are not helping their children's future? When going out into the real world, how will our generation have face-to-face conversations with others or face difficult situations with other employees?

Does this help our generation, or is it the ones that don't get "hovered" that succeed in life?

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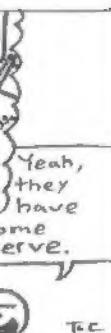
One label: "The Entitlement Generation"

Molley Eastman
STAFF WRITER

The "entitlement generation" is the label given to people born around 1995, who think that they are owed certain rights and benefits for doing absolutely nothing.

Many experts think that this generation is going to be the one that is lazy. The quality of the future workforce will be affected by common "entitled" attitudes.

Many people of this generation entering the workforce are expecting their employers to always be cooperative and assume their time off



requests to be granted every single time without question.

When individuals analyze this generation, they have mixed feelings about the so-called "lazy generation."

Some people reflect these statements by expecting everything to be handed to them, while others think that many children today do work hard to earn the things they deserve.

"I think that there are some people in our generation that are spoiled and get everything given to them; then there are some who do work hard to get the things they need," junior Melissa

Frias said.

Whether this generation is lazy or works hard, lazy and hard working individuals are found in every generation.

The entitlement generation does expect to have things handed to them more than not. However, there are some independent individuals that work hard to earn the things they have.

Employers are already preparing themselves to deal with this upcoming generation.

They will need to be cautious to continue having the same level of success that they used to.

THIS GENERATION THE FIRST TO BE "FULLY PLUGGED IN"

Makenna Kelly
STAFF WRITER

Computers, tablets, smartphones; Generation Y is hooked up to the largest information source twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. This source is the Internet.

This current generation is known by various different names. The two most commonly used, however, are Generation Y and Millennials. This generation is closely arriving to the point in their lives where they arrive into the workforce.

This generation is described by several different characteristics. Members of Generation Y tend to be very family-centric, achievement-oriented, team-oriented, attention-craving, and extremely tech-savvy. This savviness has led to the lack of face-to-face communication. This has been replaced by e-mailing and text messaging. These gadgets have helped to make life much simpler for the lives of many. Throughout the decades, however, much of this progress has caused some social skills to begin to regress.

The internet is ever-expanding, and increasingly useful. As an information source, it is used constantly, and is often taken for granted, and for good reason.

"I love the internet because it not

only opens me to [endless information], but helps in keeping me up-to-date with all of my friends that would have been long gone!" junior Dalton Stout said.

The Internet can be extremely useful, and has only evolved since it has been created. However, many problems have arisen since the dawn of the internet, and especially with this generation. Generation Y does not know a world without technology. Technology is an overwhelming force in the members of this generation's lives.

Internet addiction is a growing trend in America, and across the world, the majority coming from this generation. Many kids use the internet as therapy. These kids use programs provided through technology to replace their real world problems through fake, meaningless ones.

Video games and blogging can be a source for letting out frustration. Kids who use the internet for more than twenty hours a week, every day, or for use in online gaming, the risk of addiction is far greater.

The internet is a very helpful tool, if used in moderation. Too much of any good thing can be bad.

"I think technology is amazing, not just for me, but for the whole world!" Stout said.

Northwest reaches out with food drive

Melissa Fries
STAFF WRITER

Thanksgiving dinner, probably one of the most memorable meals you'll ever have in your life. As you're digging into grandma's fresh pumpkin pie and stuffing your face with mom's world famous biscuits, the last thing that's on your mind are on those families who would be lucky enough to have even a can of soup for dinner.

No one really thinks about it, but our community does have some families, who, unfortunately, fall under the category as a "low income family." A sad label, but a label that can be helped. Diane Rouzee and her marketing classes are leading a school wide food drive, and they're hoping everyone will participate.

"The Salvation Army is always running out of nonperishable foods

that are given to low income families; I think it would really help the community if we helped them out," Rouzee said.

The food drive started on Monday November 5 and ends on Friday November 30. Rouzee hopes to collect a total of 1,500 cans and boxes of nonperishable foods that can be donated to the Salvation Army.

This includes Ramen noodles, cereal, and cans of soup; every little bit counts. Every advisements goal is to raise 50 boxes or cans of nonperishable foods. A truck will come in to take all the items and take them directly to the Salvation Army and hopefully get them to all of the families that really need it.

"Thanksgiving is a time for blessings and people take it for granted; this is a chance for us to help out those in need," Rouzee said.

Musical Announcement

Chatter has filled the hallways the past few months with rumors regarding the musical. Everyone knew it would be big as always,

but that still didn't answer the one common question: what is the musical's name?

Well, it has finally been revealed, and it is the one, the only, GREASE!

Auditions will held December fifth and sixth, so if you have any acting experience or want to be a part of something amazing, come join in and try out!

"I can't wait to dive right in and get started with this musical. It will be absolutely great."
— musical director David Sackschewsky.

Students volunteer time and more to annual blood drive



Senior Tanner Martin prepares to give blood on November 2nd at the annual blood drive.

Ali Payton

STAFF WRITER

Volunteering. What is volunteering? Wikipedia says, "Volunteering, in the sense of carrying out tasks or providing services for individuals or community organizations without financial recompense; is generally considered an altruistic activity, intended to promote good or improve

human quality of life."

So what does volunteering have to do with Northwest High School?

Northwest is currently having a food drive, Northwest had a blood drive, and many of the alumni volunteer out of their own free will.

The American Red Cross came to Northwest on November 2nd. There was a

very supportive doctoral staff and students volunteered their time to support those who gave blood.

Students were given a number, then waited for a representative to come whisk them away to a blue screened off-area where they could be given a hemoglobin test to test their iron and answer some questions on a computer.

Afterwards, the donors were escorted to a bed and gave their "donation." After that, the donors had to wait 15 minutes before returning to class. They were given snacks and drinks to help raise their blood sugar levels. The day was a success.

Junior Melissa Fries said, "When you first donate, it is pretty scary. After you've given blood, you realize it really isn't that bad. I think everyone who can donate should. It's a great experience that helps out a lot of people."

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Winter sports begin

Seth Salter
STAFF WRITER

With sights and expectations set very high by the fall sports: football going to the playoffs, softball winning districts, and of course volleyball winning state, many are looking forward to the next chapter of the year.

Assistant girls basketball coach Jess Topil claimed that her expectations were just to be competitive, keep improving, and be a team. Topil knows the bar is set high.

"Obviously the standards are set high based on fall sports; we want to match that. I'm just looking forward being around the girls and having a fun time," Topil said.

Head boys varsity basketball coach Ryan Rathke has similar views on his team this season.

"I think we can match the Fall sports' successes if we focus on [doing] the best we can do, and work

hard everyday. If we do that, then good things will happen."

Like everyone else, Rathke is looking forward to the season.

"I'm just looking forward to working with outstanding young men and developing them into an outstanding basketball team."

Based on the Fall sports' success, everyone believes the winter sports will have a strong campaign.

"Our team has a lot of strengths; we have strong senior leadership, we're a very good defensive team, and we have players that have basketball savvy," Rathke said.

Wrestling coach Jeff Paige cannot wait to start the season.

"We have a really strong team this year; I think our biggest strength is numbers. We have over 30 wrestlers out this season. [I'm looking forward to the] competition. I love competition."

State tourney venues work hard, plan well

Mary Rice
STAFF WRITER

State volleyball is something many enjoy going to, watching all the teams compete for the gold. But does anyone consider all the work that goes into it?

Preparation was key for Northwest as they got ready to host the State volleyball tournament.

According to athletic director Rocky Almond, committee meetings began in May. Meticulous planning is a must.

"It helps to have a great secretary," Almond laughed.

Over 50 volunteers at Northwest and over 300 volunteers across the whole town were utilized for the tournament weekend.

Being a tournament venue can also be pricey.

The school needed 70,000 dollars to pay for everything, which was gained from sponsors to donations. Finding donors and sponsors to reduce the financial burden also factored into the planning of the event.

Sitting in the bleachers or standing cheering their teams on during the tournament, most people are completely unaware of how much work and expense was put into State volleyball, but Almond and his volunteers know.

However, he doesn't expect acknowledgement from the crowd.

"We do all this hard work to make sure it's a great experience; we know everything has gone well when no one says anything to us: when we hear nothing, we know we did a good job."

Athletic Superstitions

Viking athletes and coaches confess their "best" sports superstitions



Diane Rouzee
Head Coach
Volleyball



Brandon Bachle
Senior
Football



Ryan Rathke
Head Coach
Basketball



Ashley Bykerk
Senior
Cross Country



Jordan Fay
Junior
Tennis



Abby Svoboda
Senior
Swimming



Abbie Anderson
Junior
Girls Golf



Brian Sybrants
Head Coach
Wrestling



Morgan Westphal
Senior
Basketball



Dave Prokesh
Head Coach
Softball



Diane Rouzee
Head Coach
Volleyball



Believes that flowers and balloons are bad luck before a game.



Always eats the same sandwich at Subway on game days.



Always rolls up his sleeves right before tip off.



Still wears her team sports bra from last year to every meet.



Always spins his racquet before every point.



Always jumps up and down before getting onto the blocks.

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Doesn't start cleaning up equipment until the game is completely over.



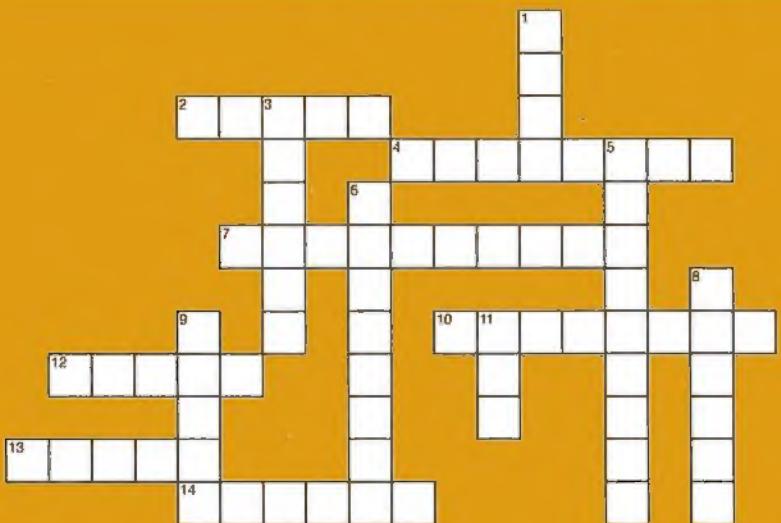
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Thanksgiving Day Fun



Across

2 a sauce made from the juices that run naturally from meat or vegetables during cooking

4 the 11th month of the year
 7 a traditional sweet dessert, often eaten during the fall and early winter, especially for Thanksgiving and Christmas

10 the fourth or fifth day of the week

12 a fermented beverage traditionally made from apple juice
 13 a piece of bread, usually small and round and served as a side dish

14 a large bird

Down

1 to cook by dry heat, especially in an oven

3 one of the four temperate seasons

5 the infusion of something with holiness, or with one's hope or approval

6 a fruit pie in which the principal filling ingredient is apples

8 all of your relatives

How many calories did I just eat???

Alexis Reynolds
 STAFF WRITER

“Yum!” Comes to mind when you think of Thanksgiving day. The turkey, ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, casseroles, rolls, and all the pies! But have you ever thought how many calories are in your Thanksgiving dinner?

Your Thanksgiving dinner equals up to 1760 calories! For a serving size of 6 oz, this is how many calories are in each food. Turkey has 340 calories. Ham is up at second with 300. Gravy, casserole, stuffing, and mashed potatoes are 150 calories. Cranberry sauce has 190. Rolls with butter have 155. Last but not least are the pies. All but Pecan pie is 180 calories. Pecan pie has 452 calories. That is equal to 2 cheeseburgers!

You would probably consider working out after that Thanksgiving meal. Although after that many calories a nap sounds great.

Derome the Twisted Stickfigure

